# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Less Stock of Wheat
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**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding less stock of wheat in the buffer stock in the country and if so, whether the Government proposes to import wheat;
(b) the rate at which wheat is imported by the Union Government and the rate at which the said wheat is likely to be sold in the market;
(c) whether due to hike in prices of wheat, the Government has taken decision to sell wheat out of its buffer stock in the open market and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has fixed the price and the maximum quantity of wheat to be sold under the said scheme and if so, the quantity of the said wheat likely to be sold in the open market and the maximum retail price of the said wheat likely to be fixed;
(e) whether any assessment has been made regarding the increase in the demand of wheat during the current year as compared to the last year and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether the Government is unable to know the fluctuations in prices due to lack of timely and actual information of foodgrains stocked by domestic and foreign businessmen, and if so, the scheme proposed by the Government to ensure availability of food items to the people at low prices?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): The availability of wheat stocks viz-a-viz stocking norms as on 01.10.2016
Commodity
Stocking norms for 1st October
Stock in Central Pool as on 01.10.2016
Wheat
195.20 LMT
213.28 LMT
...2/-
...2...
The Govt. has sufficient wheat stocks to meet the requirement under National Food Security Act (NFSA) & Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) till commencement of new procurement and there is no proposal at present to import wheat on government account.
(b): There is at present no proposal for import of wheat for Central Pool Stock.
(c): 33.10 LMT wheat has been sold under Open Market Sale Schemes (Domestic) {(OMSS(D)} by Food Corporation of India (FCI) till 29.11.2016. Department of Food & Public Distribution has revised the foodgrains stocking norms for the Central Pool from November, 2016 to June, 2017 so that the surplus quantity (10 LMT) of wheat may be offered for sale under OMSS(D).
(d) Ministry of CA,F & PD set a target of 65-75 lakhs MT of wheat for sale by FCI out of Central Pool stocks under OMSS(D) during 2016-17. Till 30.11.2016 33.10 LMT wheat has been sold under OMSS(D). As per policy, after keeping the requirement for NFSA & OWS, surplus wheat stocks are to be offered under OMSS(D). Maximum reserve price varies from State to State. Maximum Reserve Price is in Kerala, ranging from Rs. 2007 to 2028 per quintal.
(e): During 2016-17, upto 4th e-auction of November, FCI has sold 33.10 LMT whereas during 2015-16 upto 4th e-auction, 24.77 LMT of wheat was sold.
(f): Based on timely information, the Government of India has reduced import duty on wheat from 25% to 10% to enhance the availability of imported wheat stocks in domestic market. In addition, the FCI is also undertaking open market sale of wheat & rice through e-auction at pre-determined reserve price, to ensure availability of foodgrains at low prices.
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